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## **FIRE INDUSTRY BULLETIN 2016-001**

### **SCOPE**

New building fire alarm installation requirements for exterior, public or common use areas within the City of Fresno and contract service areas.

### **PURPOSE**

To ensure the safety of occupants in exterior, public and common use areas are afforded audible and visible notification from building fire alarm systems.

### **BACKGROUND**

As is noted in the California Fire Code, Chapter 9, public and common use areas require audible and visible notification when a building fire alarm is installed. Public and common use areas include exterior locations such as decks, rooftops, sidewalks and other similar areas. These areas may also be used for dining and similar activities subject to the City's outdoor dining ordinance.

These areas may not possess traditional exit components and the occupants located within them may be situated in such a way as to impair egress from within a building. These locations may also be constructed of materials that are not of sufficient method or work, quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability or safety, and traditional fire extinguishing systems are not typically extended to these locations.

Finally, code commentary is clear that the intent of the public and common use requirements is to replicate the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act - Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

Beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, where a building fire alarm is installed and there are exterior, public or common use areas where the occupants are provided with seating, audible and visible notification appliances shall be extended to each exterior, public or common use area.

***"To protect and put service above all else."***

Exception:

Existing, previously approved building fire alarm systems do not require exterior, audible and visible alarm notification appliances, except where the fire alarm system is upgraded or replaced, or a new fire alarm system is installed.

Note: These requirements apply to both required and voluntary systems.

This policy is effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 until revoked.